Allahabad, April 19th 1842.

My dear brethren,

I address you at this time in the cheering hope that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ abounds to your souls. I have heard the glad tidings that there is a revival in Princeton. And I cannot but think that the Lord in sending this rich blessing, would have as one important object in view, to stir up the hearts of those whom He is about to employ in the holy work of the gospel ministry: to excite in them holy affections, and to give them increased preparation for their office, with deepened views of its solemn character. Oh with what pleasure, with what thankfulness, will you in future years look back upon any instrumentality that the Lord was pleased to exercise, during the period of your study, to produce upon you such results. You remember that when "Christian" had his fight with Apollyon it was rendered more bitter, more fearful, by the slips he had made just before entering the valley. Such will be the experience of that minister who in preparing to enter upon the most trying situation that a man can occupy suffers himself to fall into listless, worldly frames. I cannot say, that had I the course of preparation to repeat I would live differently, would be more humble, more prayerful, more zealous for a precious Saviour. I cannot say so: for the heart is deceitful above all things. But this full well I know, that it is a grief & a humiliation to me that I did not thus. Ah, there is no need to neglect one's studies in order to enjoy the teachings of the Holy Spirit. I for one should have made much better progress in the former, had I spent more time in seeking the latter. Devotion to the glory of God is adapted to call forth one's highest powers: & a heart at peace with Him is the best preparative for the exercise of those powers.

Through the good hand of the Lord upon me I am brought safely and in health to this far-distant land, and thus far on my way up the country toward the station assigned me, Loodhianah. I am stopping with the brethren at Allahabad, because the hot winds are blowing: & I cannot proceed to L. until the cool season commences. I shall probably go as far as Futtyghur, for there are peculiar facilities for making that portion of the journey. I have already seen much of heathenism, though I am told that I have yet little idea of the true state of things. In preaching on the subject in America I was wont to urge persons to read those portions of Scripture that describe the heathen, and to endeavour to form their ideas from them For instance Rom. Ch. 1. I now see that any one who can by the aid of faith & imagination draw out in all its dreadful particulars the picture there afforded, then will know just what heathenism is. Oh it is a dark scene that presents itself in this land. An immense, swarming population, of most degraded, deeply sunken idolaters. In addressing them on the subject of religion, it seems almost impossible for one to get low enough to be on a level with their minds: indeed quite: for many of the motives & principles that religion brings to light they seem utterly unable to comprehend: they cannot form a conception of them. For instance they seem quite unable to conceive that one person sh^d shew kindness to another, with any other motive than the hope of getting some equivalent. A clergyman in Calcutta related to me an instance of this. He had a servant who was very ill, & likely to die. By the most prompt & active measures, & the most assiduous personal attentions, he was the means of saving his life. Soon after his recovery, he came to his master, saying he must have higher wages. He inquired the reason. He replied, that he knew the Sahib would never have taken so much pains to cure him, unless his services were very valuable & he insisted on it, saying that otherwise he must certainly leave him.

The request was granted, because the servant was a young man just growing up, & had not previously received full wages. Subsequently he was ill again, & was again saved. The same request was again made. The result I do not remember, but the principle is illustrated: rather the want of principle.

Frequently if you talk with them about their souls, they think that you design them a great attention, and have consequently a high opinion of them, or feel yourself under obligation to him, on account of some merit of theirs. They make it then the occasion of asking favours of you. One of the missionaries told me they sometimes came, saying they wished to have conversation about their souls, & you would presently see that they were trying to insinuate themselves, so as to request some gift. But that power which makes the vilest clean is sufficient for their restoration. When shall the arm of the Lord be revealed? He has done enough to make his people glad already, but still it is only the day of small things. In the mission established at this place there is nothing remarkable. Within the last six months, six have been added to the native church: and there are some serious inquirers. There is pleasant little school for girls, another for boys: about forty in both. They are all boarding scholars: some of them poor orphans that were picked up during a time of famine. The mission are about to establish an English school. There is preaching at two places on the Sabbath, in the native tongue; & through the week, repeatedly, in the public squares. Mr. Owen, who was with you no great while since has begun to preach in Hindustani. We had the pleasure of finding him at Benaras: he came down to meet us. It was truly delightful to see an old friend & brother in this heathen land: the first ~~person~~ I had met, that was not a stranger since leaving America. Our intercourse with the brethren at Benaras was very pleasant indeed. They are an excellent, valuable set of men: & full of kind feeling & brotherly love. I tarried there five days, & made the acquaintance of them all.

I will close this communication with an account of what I witnessed of heathenism & Christianity in a visit to Barwannepore, Calcutta. "Friday, 4th February. Went with Rev. Mr. Boaz, to visit the London Miss.y Soc.ty's school, in the suburbs of Calcutta, near the Kalee Ghaut. The buildings & grounds appropriated to the institution appear admirably adapted to the purpose; large & commodious. There are about 400 pupils, boys: indeed all ages from 6 or 8 up to manhood. It was a most interesting sight. Some of the older ones were questioned on Grecian history, evidences of Christianity, &c. The answers, which were quite unpremeditated, would I think have done credit to the pupils of any school or Seminary in America: ~~for they were none exceptionable~~. They expose the folly of idolatry, & contend for the Christian system; with great skill, & great zeal too: yet they are in full caste, many of them the sons of Brahmins. What a most singular, & interesting position. They think you are joking with them, if you ask them whether they worship idols. They are bright, intelligent youth. I could not but be deeply affected, as I looked upon them, and listened to their answers. Felt that I must say a word to them, & urge them to seek the influences of the Holy Spirit. They seemed to appreciate it. This school affords a specimen of what may be done with the heathen, if they are taken in their youth. From the school we went to the temple of Kalee, one of the principal deities of Bengal. The sight of the temple, image, and appurtenances was sickening. The idol is a hideous object: her face is large and black, with three red eyes: hands stretched out & smeared with blood. In the court lay the heads of kids. On the altar was a smoking heap. At the time of the feasts there are thousands upon thousands crowding here. In front of the temple, and for some distance from it were the obscene, disgusting insignia of the deity. Oh what a contrast between the scenes of the morning and those of the afternoon!" Dear brethren, pray for the heathen, pray for your dying fellow-men, the missionaries. Yours in the best of bonds, Levi Janvier.

Answered Dec 15th 1842

To the Society of Inquiry
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